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THE HEADLINES:-

- President Droupadi Murmu calls for strengthening India's cultural identity
- Five tribes committee objects to reservation commission name; Seeks review of both job and technical seats
- Nagaland RMSA-2016 batch teachers suspend agitation following government assurance
- Biopic on Padma Shri Lentina Ao wins top honour at 71st National Film Awards

President Droupadi Murmu has emphasised the need for collective efforts to strengthen India's identity as a cultural power, alongside its growing stature as an economic power. Speaking at the 64th National Exhibition of Art ceremony, organised by Lalit Kala Akademi, in New Delhi, the President said, art is a powerful medium to enrich cultural heritage and make society more sensitive.

The Five Tribes Committee on Review of Reservation Policy has partially welcomed the State Government's decision to set up a Reservation Commission, but said the move deviates from earlier agreements. The comittee objected to naming the commission as 'Job Reservation Commission' saying it deviates from the agreed points of the June 3 meeting between the two parties, as well as from the Cabinet announcement on August 6, which referred to a 'Reservation Review Commission'. It urged the state government to rectify the name to 'Reservation Review Commission' and to ensure the Terms of Reference are in accordance with earlier agreement for review of reservations in both job and technical and professional education seats. The Committee reaffirmed its earlier resolution to go ahead with its planned agitation if no action is taken by September 30.

The Nagaland RMSA-2016 batch teachers have suspended their agitation following assurances by the state government to address their demands. During a meeting convened by Commissioner & Secretary, School Education, Kevileno Angami yesterday, the teachers presented their Charter of Demands, which was accepted for study. It was decided to set up a High-Level Committee, with representatives from School Education Department, Samagra Shiksha, Finance, and Justice and Law, along with members from All Nagaland School Teachers' Association and the RMSA 2016 batch. Meanwhile, a Sub-Committee led by the School Education Department and comprising representatives from ANSTA and RMSA 2016, will study the demands and prepare a preliminary report to be submitted to the High-Level Committee. The process is expected to be completed within six months.

Nagaland has been awarded among the Best States under the Mera Resham Mera Abhiman campaign in recognition of its efforts to promote silk farming. The award was distributed during the 76th Foundation Day celebration of the Central Silk Board (CSB) on Saturday in Bengaluru, in the presence of Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh and other officials.

Nagaland was joined by Asssam in the north-east zone of the awards. Meeanwhile, Chümoukedima district also received the Best District award for its contribution to sericulture, led by District Sericulture Officer, Mayangjungla Walling, and CSB Scientist-B Dr. Anil Kumar ST. In the individual category, Alonuo from Vidima village, Chümoukedima, received the Best Eri Silkworm Rearer award for her innovative and sustainable silk rearing practices.

The biographical film 'Lentina Ao... A Light on the Eastern Horizon,' has won the award for Best Biographical/ Historical Reconstruction/ Compilation Film at the 71st National Film Award. The award was conferred by President Droupadi Murmu at a ceremony in New Delhi yesterday.

Produced by the National Film Development Corporation of India, and directed by Sanjib Parasar and Nilakshi Medhi, the film traces the inspiring journey of Lentina Ao, from working as a midwife in remote Nagaland to receiving the Padma Shri for her dedicated service to people in conflict-affected areas. Director Parasar described the recognition as a tribute to Lentina Ao's unwavering spirit and the communities she devoted her life to serving.

The Union Cabinet today approved expansion of Centrally Sponsored Scheme, CSS, for strengthening and upgrading existing central and state government medical colleges. Briefing media in New Delhi, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, this aims to increase 5,000 postgraduate seats and 5,023 MBBS seats in government medical institutions.

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The next-generation GST reforms represent a significant step towards simplifying India's indirect tax system. People can now avail the benefits of GST reforms, which were already implemented on the 22nd of this month. Under the new structure, the earlier four-tier structure of 5, 12, 18, and 28 per cent has been simplified into a two-tier structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent. By reducing the tax rate on a wide range of goods and services, the reforms are bringing substantial relief to citizens.

And, The Niuland district administration has notified all villages, landowners, and the general public along the proposed 2-lane road from Showuba to Ghotovi, connecting Guzunyu–Pughoboto–Noklak–Pangsha, that prior permission must be obtained from area administrative officers for any new construction along the route. Deputy Commissioner Sara S Jamir said no compensation will be provided for any structures built within the designated Right of Way.

